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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 10/693,267 | 10/24/2003 | Mark V. Shoen | 57111-5137 | 9077 |

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EXAMINER

HEWITT, JAMES M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/693,267

Applicant(s)

SHOEN, MARK V.

Examiner

James M. Hewitt

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15-16, 26-27, 31-34 and 36-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31-34 and 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16, 26, 27 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 October 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

The amendment filed 6/29/05 has been entered in its entirety.

Allowable Subject Matter

The indicated allowability of claims 26, 27 and 28 (and thus claims 15-16 and 37) is withdrawn in view of Kontra (US 2,565,659) in view of Winchester (US 3,380,267).

Rejections based on these references follow.

Claims 31-34 and 36 are allowed.

Terminal Disclaimer

The terminal disclaimer filed on 6/29/05 disclaiming the terminal portion of any patent granted on this application which would extend beyond the expiration date of 6,779,943 has been reviewed and is accepted. The terminal disclaimer has been recorded.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.84 or 1.152 for the reasons indicated on the attached Form PTO-948. Corrected drawings are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15-16, 26-27 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kontra (US 2,565,659) in view of Winchester (US 3,380,267).

With respect to claim 15, Kontra discloses a method of preventing disconnection of a coupling using a device having (i) first and second halves (see figure 2) that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second halves each having an inner surface, (ii) a plurality of holes defined in said first and second halves, said plurality of holes including at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has a length comprising a first diameter portion (21) and a second diameter portion (23), the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second halves such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second halves, (iii) at least one threaded hole (20) defined in the other of said first and second halves, and (iv) at least one threaded fastener (see figure 4), said method comprising the steps of: (a) fitting said first and second halves directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening, (b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole, (c) inserting said threaded fastener into said socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener

with said threaded hole. Kontra states that his coupling is a speedometer cable couple, and does not disclose that the coupling can be used with odometer cables. Winchester discloses a similar coupling that can be used with speedometer cables and odometer cables alike (see at least col. 1 lines 20-24). In view of Winchester's teaching, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Kontra's coupling with odometer cables.

With respect to claim 16, wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket.

With respect to claim 26, Kontra discloses a method of preventing disconnection of a cable coupling, comprising: (a) providing an cable coupling; (b) providing a device having first and second sections (see figure 2) that are mateable to form an opening, said first and second sections each having an inner surface and a plurality of holes, said plurality of holes including (i) at least one socket hole, wherein the socket hole has length comprising a first diameter portion (21) and a second diameter portion (23), the socket hole is enclosed along the first diameter portion and the second diameter portion, the first diameter is less than the second diameter, and the socket hole is defined in one of said first and second sections such that the first diameter portion is proximate the inner surface of said one of said first and second sections, (ii) at least one threaded hole (20) defined in the other of said first and second sections, and (iii) at least one threaded fastener (see figure 4); (d) fitting said first and second sections directly over said coupling, such that said coupling is disposed in said opening; (b) aligning said socket hole with said threaded hole; and (c) inserting said threaded fastener into said

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socket hole and threadedly engaging said threaded fastener with said threaded hole.

Kontra states that his coupling is a speedometer cable couple, and does not disclose

that the coupling can be used with odometer cables. Winchester discloses a similar

coupling that can be used with speedometer cables and odometer cables alike (see at

least col. 1 lines 20-24). In view of Winchester's teaching, it would have been obvious

to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Kontra's

coupling with odometer cables.

With respect to claim 27, wherein said at least one threaded fastener is threadedly engaged with said threaded hole using a thin-wall deep socket.

With respect to claim 37, wherein the socket hole has an opening proximate the second diameter portion, the threaded fastener defines a head (26/30), and wherein the step of inserting said threaded fastener comprises inserting said threaded fastener such that said head does not protrude through said opening.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James M. Hewitt whose telephone number is 571-272-7084. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 930am-600pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


JAMES M. HEWITT
PRIMARY EXAMINER